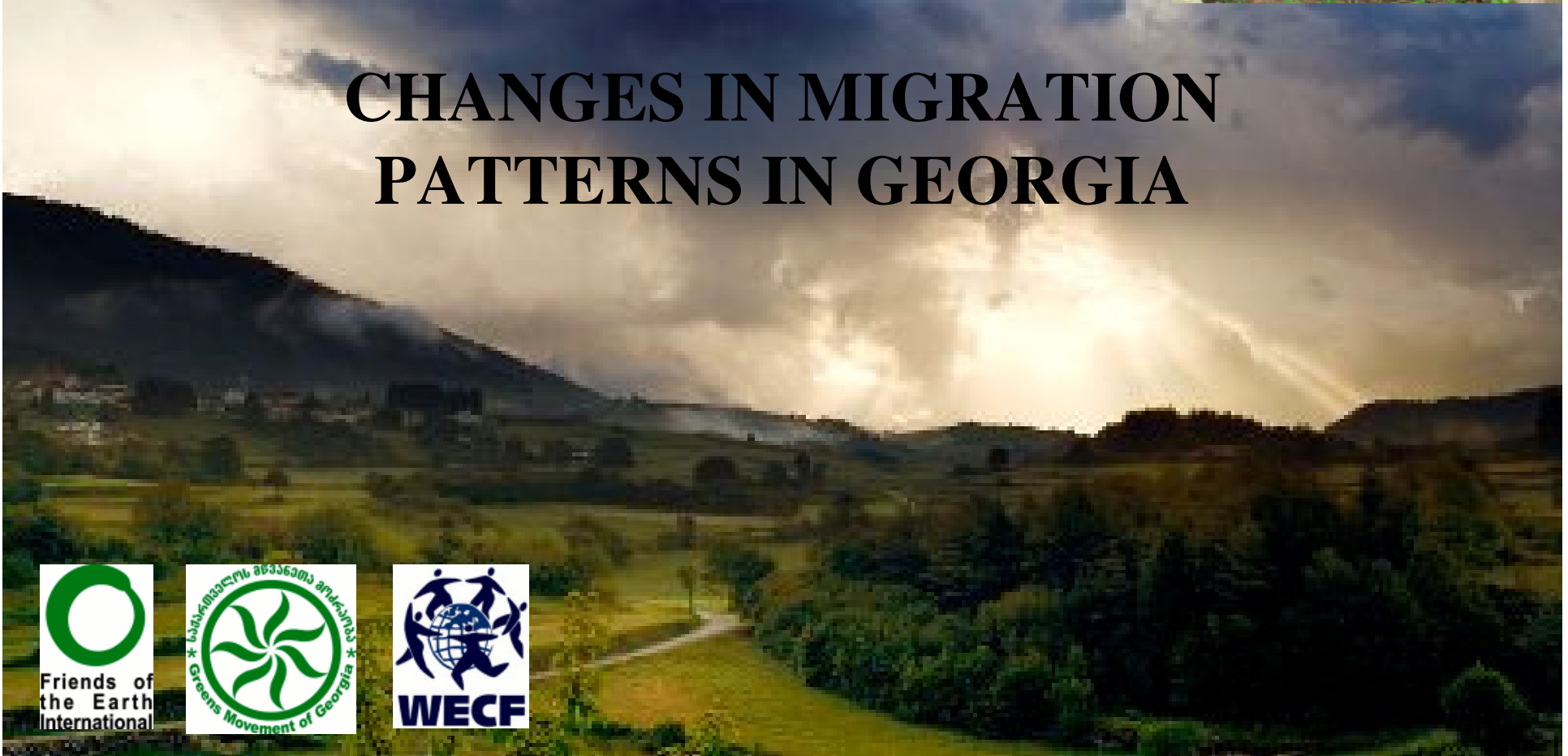




# CHANGES IN MIGRATION PATTERNS IN GEORGIA



# Georgia



Georgia occupies the south-eastern part of Europe, lying between the Black and Caspian seas.

Almost all types of climate are presented over Georgian territory except savanna and tropical forests.



Population of Georgia is app. 4,960,951 people among them 54% lives below poverty line.

Main income for rural population is agriculture, such as growing vegetables, fruits, beer-keeping, fishing, cattle-breeding, etc.

## **Impacts of Climate Change on Agriculture**

Impact upon the hydrological cycle and reasonable utilization of water resources in agriculture;

Frequency of extreme natural phenomena (floods, droughts) will increase resulting in the increase of the scale of natural disasters;

desertification of the territories in eastern Georgia;

Lost of fertile lands in different regions of Georgia;

Increase of poverty level mostly in rural regions mostly depended on agricultural production;



## Impacts on coastal areas

- Coastline has already been removed into the depth of the land by 1.0-3.0m, destroying 0.1km of the beach of high recreational capacity.
- close to town Poti the Sea took away 3.5 km of land, where hippodrome, houses and agricultural lands were located.
- In the coastal area of black sea, close to town Poti the Sea took away 3.5 km of land, where hippodrome, houses and agricultural lands were located.
- Close to another town Batumi, the Sea entered to the shore with 250m and the speed of water flow increased from 2-3m to 8-10m.
- In 2005-2007 year, water took away the part of a high-way and caused serious damage to Batumi airport.
- Because of the flooding, local population loose cattle and living sources as well.



## Impacts on ecosystems



- Scheme of vertical zonality of ecosystems will substantially transform;
- Considerable changes of the types of natural ecosystem structure are expected.
- Reduction of snow cover will take place and abundant water will be observed in the lower belt;
- Glaciers will retreat, friable and labile snow mass will melt;
- In lakes and mountain valleys changes of a total storage of water runoff will be observed
- Regularities of their drainage will change, as well.



## Extreme weather events and migration

- In last 10 years, activation of geological events increased significantly.
  - 70% of the country is located in the zone of high geological risk.
  - Situation is especially extreme in mountainous places.
- Eco-migration is a big problem for Georgia. Because of extreme weather events many families had to migrate in different areas of Georgia and try to adapt to new conditions.



- From 1987 till now 600 people die.
- 31341 families left their living places and migrated;
- In last 30 years, 30 000 ha agricultural land destroyed;
- 10 000 living houses destroyed;
- 2674 ha of agricultural land was flooded;
- In last 10 years, flooding of the territories caused 300 million of economical damage to the country;
- All above mentioned caused huge economical damaged – app. 10 milliard USD.
- In general 1,5 million ha of land has been damaged in a different level.
- More then 200 000 people suffered;
- In 1995-2006 years draughts caused 400 million GL economical damage;
- In last 10 years significantly increased the frequency of storms in different areas of Georgia which caused huge material and human loses;

## Conclusion

- In last 35 years climate-related migration in rural settlements increased significantly and state can't ensure sufficient support of those people who has been suffered;
- Situation become worse and in near future huge changes are expected that will have negative impact on country's economical and social development;
- Thousands of families are leaving their living places and try to adapt to new conditions,
- There is not effective legislative base and state support for eco-migrants.
- Women, old people and children suffer more as the most vulnerable part of the society.